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Headteacher Mrs Kirsty Eales

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of 2020 and look forward to our Christmas break, we want to take the time to reflect a little on what has been such an unusual and often challenging year.

Firstly, we thank all of our staff, pupils and parents/carers for their continued support and resilience during this year. With half of the year being spent outside of school for most pupils and many staff, we have all had to adapt, dig deep and find new ways of supporting and caring for our children. The return to school in September was an anxious time for many, particularly staff; the way that everyone adapted to new rules and guidance was a great credit to our community. Whilst no longer at Overstone we want to particularly thank Mrs Mercer for stepping up and leading our school in such a demanding period.

We also want to thank our wonderful PTA. Without the work and fund raising of these amazing people we would not be able to support the school with some of the trips, excursions and capital investments that are so important. Every pound helps so please continue to support wherever you can; especially this year when the big fundraisers - Bonfire night and Summer fete for example were unable to go ahead.

Of course, nobody wants COVID restrictions to last any longer than is necessary and we thank everybody for their efforts so far with social distancing and wearing a mask when on school grounds. These rules will continue for some time yet and we ask that you continue your efforts with this. Social distancing guidelines should also be adhered to during our journeys to and from school whilst outside of school grounds.

In September we also welcomed Mrs Eales to Overstone as our Headteacher. It has been fantastic to see how quickly she has settled in and the changes already made. Highlights include 'Go Green for Macmillan', Children in Need and quite simply the return of In Class teaching, happy children and happy staff. We wish Mrs Eales a speedy recovery from her operation and look forward to seeing her back before the end of term.

As a board we regularly seek to strengthen our numbers and experience. We will have vacancies for two Parent Governors in early 2021. It is a rewarding way to get involved with our community and school. Mrs Eales will be in touch with more information in the New Year.

We hope that everyone enjoys their festive break, even though it will be a very different Christmas for many of us. Please do stay safe, enjoy yourselves and look forward to what will be, we are sure, a fantastic 2021.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Governing Board